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Miss Repplier's Words.

MISS AGNES REPPLIER, the bril-
 liant essayist, author of "Points
 of View," "Essays in Idleness,"
 and other volumes of sparkling literary
 table talk, addressed Sorosis, the famous
 New York Woman's Club, at its opening
 meeting of the season in mid-October.
 Her topic was "Enforced Philanthropy,"
 and her entertaining and pithy remarks
 are well worth quoting for the benefit of
 our readers. They will be appreciated
 by many busy Canadian women, who are
 the constant victims of this "enforced
 philanthropy."

"Everybody," said Miss Repplier, in
 her clear voice, "has embodied one
 melancholy principle of philanthropy.
 We take from the farmer or the butcher
 to give to the tailor or the candle maker
 or someone else. We justify the pro-
 ceeding with some hollow civility about
 the farmer's well-known liberality and
 about the busiest people being always
 the ones to help others."

Miss Repplier gave an instance of a
 young newspaper woman who was in-
 veigled into doing a large amount of work
 for one of the "women's editions" which
 certain newspapers got out for some
 charity. She was hard worked at the
 best, this young woman. But she could
 not refuse the suave committee.

"And there," said Miss Repplier,
 "was that poor, jaded girl, robbed in the
 sacred name of charity of twelve hours of
 rest and recreation, without any more
 volition in the matter than the little
 Pardiggle had when their pocket money
 was contributed by their mother to the
 missionaries. This is not at all excep-
 tional. Think how the actor is asked to
 appear for the benefit of some burned
 out, or flooded out, or starved out com-
 munity. Think of the singer who is re-
 quested to sing in the same way. Fancy
 the sentiment of a business man or a sur-
 geon if he were asked to contribute a day's
 earnings. I have had said to me many
 times: 'We don't ask for your money, Miss
 Repplier. We don't want to make any
 real demands on your time, but if you
 will only write a little paper for us, just
 any kind of a little paper that won't take
 long.' It seems vain for me to explain
 that 'any kind' of a little paper, even the
 littlest of little papers, represents money,
 and more money than they would dream
 of asking me to contribute. Yet they do
 not intend to be unreasonable."

"The people who ask you to go to
 Kalamazoo, or Memphis, or Portland,
 Or., to address a meeting and offer to pay
 your expenses; the people who write and
 say that they are about to start a new
 magazine which cannot afford to pay its
 contributors, and will you kindly give
 them one of your sparkling essays for the
 first number? the people who have arti-
 cles to write on Greek comedy or Nor-
 wegian tragedy, know nothing about these
 subjects, and beg that you will kindly
 give them your original views—these

people are a class apart, numerous and
 very destructive, but not in my province
 to-day.

"There is an axiom among people that
 you must go to the busy woman if you
 want anything done. But the busy wo-
 man—if she be busy earning her bread
 —should be gently handled by her active-
 ly philanthropic sister. She is gonged
 into action by the forces that are within
 her and by the cruel pressure from with-
 out. So many hours of every day go to
 her regular duties, but there is always a
 little time left over for the children's
 hospital or the maternity hospital or the
 hospital for incurables; always a little
 time for the prevention of cruelty to ani-
 mals, or the anti-vivisection society;
 always a spare moment for the troubles
 of the Armenians or the Russians, or the
 Chinese; always a committee meeting at
 four o'clock, or a few words in behalf of
 a factory reform at five, or an entertain-
 ment for sailor women at half past eight;
 always flowers to be carried to the sick,
 or pictures to be hung on poor men's
 wall, or a course of reading to be arranged
 for girls living in the country. These
 things are good, but you are taking from
 the farmer to give to the candlemaker,
 when you exhaust the vitality of one
 woman to feed the vital forces of another."

"If we could eliminate from our lines
 the semi-benevolent and wholly worthless
 drawing room entertainments we should
 have more time and money for finer
 results. Winter after winter we buy
 tickets, and, what is infinitely worse, we
 sell them, for readings, recitals, lectures,
 talks that are of no real service or pleas-
 ure to anybody. Somebody comes to give
 six lectures on American art; somebody
 else to give readings from Shakespeare;
 somebody else to recite Mr. Browning's
 poetry; somebody else to read Molière's
 plays; somebody else to tell us about the
 Alaskan Indians, or the Salvation Army,
 or the French Academy, or the Spanish
 novelists, or sanitary plumbing, or free
 schools in Italy, or landscape gardening.
 Whether these endless lectures are for
 the benefit of charities or to start reforms
 or simply for the enrichment of the lec-
 turer, the same pressure is brought to

bear upon you. Even the buying of
 tickets is not sufficient. You must drag
 your tired body and sleepy brain to his
 pitiless lecture which you don't want to
 hear. The hostess likes to have 'the
 rooms seem full.'

"Sometimes, however, there is some-
 thing so original in these demands that
 one cannot but be fascinated by them. I
 received a letter from a young woman
 asking in what way to dispose of some
 cabinet photographs of Ibsen and Grieg
 at \$2 apiece for the benefit of a hospital
 in Christiania. I was so impressed by the
 novelty of the request that I bought one
 of the photographs, although I can scarce-
 ly think of anything I care less to have.
 A few days after, a friend told me that
 she had received a request for money to
 purchase luxuries for the French soldiers
 in Madagascar. She told me that she
 contributed. She thought she might
 never have another chance to send money
 to Madagascar."

Miss Repplier talked entertainingly for
 some time, and her final plea was not to
 "rob a worker in order to give to a
 beggar."

Madame Ireland

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